

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/001,397	KOIWA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	TIMOTHY J. THOMPSON	2873	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment filed on 4/16/2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-30.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 08/979,642.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                     |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                              |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

## DETAILED ACTION

### Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-30 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art taken either singularity or in combination fails to anticipate or fairly suggest the limitations of the independent claim, in such a manner that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 would be proper. The prior art fails to teach a combination of all the claimed features as presented in independent claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11-15 and 19-26, with the important feature being; the having a portion thereof making sliding engagement with a lens holding frame(claims 1, 14, 15); the movable lens frame has a cam surface and the flare diaphragm has a cam follower moved by the cam surface (claim 4); wherein said flare member includes a cam follower engaging a cam provided in said lens barrel to move said flare diaphragm(claim 5); the flare diaphragm move along an arcuate path(claim 7); the flare diaphragm being driven by a rotatable member driven by the motor(claim 9, 19); increasing flexing when advanced into the optical path and decreasing flexing when retreated from the optical path(claim 11, 20); wherein said flare diaphragm is disposed in a space of D-shaped cut portion in the lenses which does not contribute to an effective light beam(claim 12, 21); a portion thereof making sliding engagement with a portion of said lens barrel movable with said lenses such that said

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flare diaphragm respectively advances into and retreats from the optical path for cutting deleterious light(claim 13, 22); wherein said Flare diaphragm is formed by a flexible member, said movable lens frame having a cam surface for selectively engaging said flexible member responsive to a relative position of the movable lens frame along the optical axis(claim 23); or the flare diaphragm returning to an undeflected state when the lens holding frame is moved in a second direction opposite the first direction, the flexible member returning to the undeflected state when the lens frame moves in the second direction to a location whereby the flare diaphragm is free of engagement with both the lens frame and the one of the lenses(claims 24-26). Therefore claims 1-30 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy J. Thompson whose telephone number is (571) 272-2342. If the examiner can not be reached his supervisor, Ricky Mack, can be reached on (571) 272-2333.

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/Timothy J Thompson/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2873